CLAIMS

1. A method for providing a virtual fence for use with a delivery vehicle, the method comprising steps of:

detecting a protection event; determining that the protection event is an activation event; and

activating a selected virtual fence based on the activation event.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected virtual fence is selected from a group comprising a boundary fence, a perimeter fence, and a route fence.
 - 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising steps of: determining that the activation event is a sub-event; and activating the selected virtual fence based the sub-event.
- 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the sub-event is one of a vehicle sub-event, a trailer sub-event, and a driver sub-event
- 5. The method of claim 3, further comprising a step of activating one of a boundary fence, a perimeter fence, and a route fence based on the sub-event.
- 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the delivery vehicle comprises a tractor portion and a trailer portion and the sub-event is a trailer sub-event that occurs when the trailer portion is unhooked from the tractor portion.
 - 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising steps of: determining that the protection event is a deactivation event; and deactivating a virtual fence based on the activation event.
- 8. A protection system that operates to provide a virtual fence for use with a delivery vehicle, the protection system comprising:

input logic that is coupled to receive a protection signal;

fence logic that is coupled to the input logic, and wherein the fence logic operates to detect an activation event based on the protection signal and activate a selected virtual fence based on the activation event.

- 9. The protection system of claim 8, wherein the input logic is operator input logic and the protection signal is an operator input signal.
- 10. The protection system of claim 8, wherein the input logic is a sensor input logic and the protection signal is a sensor input signal.
- 11. The protection system of claim 10, wherein the delivery vehicle comprises a tractor portion and a trailer portion and the sensor input signal indicates when the trailer portion is unhooked from the tractor portion.
- 12. The protection system of claim 8, wherein the input logic is position input logic and the protection signal is a position signal.
- 13. The protection system of claim 8, wherein the input logic is communication input logic and the protection signal is a communication signal.
- 14. The protection system of claim 8, wherein the protection signal is any combination of an operator signal, a sensor signal, a position signal, and a communication signal.
- 15. The protection system of claim 8, further comprising position logic that operates to determine a vehicle position, wherein the position logic outputs the vehicle position in a position signal that is the protection signal.
- 16. The protection system of claim 8, further comprising message processing logic that is coupled to the fence logic, wherein the message processing logic outputs a vehicle message that is used to control a vehicle control system.
- 17. Apparatus for providing a virtual fence for use with a delivery vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting a protection event;

means for determining that the protection event is an activation event; and means for activating a selected virtual fence based on the activation event.

- 18. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising: means for determining that the activation event is a sub-event; and means for activating the selected virtual fence based the sub-event.
- 19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for activating one of a boundary fence, a perimeter fence, and a route fence based on the sub-event.
- 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the delivery vehicle comprises a tractor portion and a trailer portion and the apparatus further comprises means for determining that the sub-event is a trailer sub-event that occurs when the trailer portion is unhooked from the tractor portion.
- 21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the trailer portion comprises cargo and the apparatus further comprises means for determining if the cargo is moved outside the selected virtual fence.
- 22. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for deactivating a virtual fence based on the activation event.
- 23. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for outputting a vehicle message that is used to control a vehicle control system.
- 24. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for providing a virtual fence for use with a delivery vehicle, the instructions when executed perform a method, comprising steps of:

detecting a protection event; determining that the protection event is an activation event; and activating a selected virtual fence based on the activation event.